



**Written Testimony in Support of SB 467  
Maryland Child Care Credential Program – Extension of Funding  
From: Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers, Talbot County, MD**

I am writing in support of **Maryland Senate Bill 467**, which extends funding for the **Maryland Child Care Credential Program**. This program is essential to strengthening Maryland’s early childhood workforce by supporting professional development and career advancement for childcare educators.

At Critchlow Adkins, we see the value of this program every day. Many of our teachers are deeply dedicated to their profession, but like much of the early childhood workforce, they are paid at the margins. Without programs like the Child Care Credential Program, many simply would not have the financial ability to pursue additional coursework, training, and credential levels that help them grow in their careers.

One of our long-time teachers began working with children because she loved helping young learners grow and discover the world around them. Through the credential program, she was able to take courses and advance her professional credentials—something she has often said would not have been possible otherwise. Today, she leads a vibrant classroom and mentors newer educators, sharing the knowledge and confidence she gained along the way.

Another teacher recently told us that earning higher credential levels through the program helped her feel recognized as a professional educator. For someone working hard each day to nurture young children, that recognition matters. It also motivates teachers to continue improving their skills and deepening the quality of care they provide.

When educators are supported in their professional growth, children benefit from stronger learning environments, more stable classrooms, and more experienced teachers. The Child Care Credential Program helps make that possible by investing in the workforce and educators who care for Maryland’s youngest learners.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 467. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz Connelly  
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